

There is simply no comparison here. Doing the right thing should never be a precedent for doing wrong.

And yet, both Reps. MARJORIE TAYLOR GREEN (R-GA) and PAUL GOSAR (R-AZ) have since been reassigned to House committees after being stripped off their panel roles in the Democratic-controlled Congress in 2021.

The House GOP Steering Committee assigned GREENE (R-GA) to the House Homeland Security and Oversight Committees and GOSAR (R-AZ) to the House Natural Resources and Oversight Committees, according to multiple reports, received committee assignments back after being stripped from their assignments in the Democratic-controlled Congress in 2021.

Let's be very clear here: Rep. OMAR immediately apologized when she was told by the Jewish community that her words were hurtful and sought out Members of the Jewish community to learn how she could be an ally in the fight against antisemitism.

Other members of this body however regularly spread antisemitic conspiracy theories, talks about Jewish space lasers, and threatens violence against their colleagues.

While the Republican Party leader and former President dine with open neo-Nazis like Nick Fuentes and vile antisemites like Kanye West.

Trump dined also with Nazis, and said "Jews have to get their act together," and also said to a group of Jewish leaders, "You're brutal killers. Not nice people at all. But you have to vote for me; you have no choice." He never apologized.

We must continue to support Representative OMAR. Her goal is to work for her constituents, and they reelected her to do just that.

Republicans cannot continue with these stunts. We must work on legislation that actually impacts the American people instead of these political stunts that do no good.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ANDREW JACKSON STATUE REMOVAL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Andrew Jackson Statue Removal Act, which would remove the Andrew Jackson statue from Lafayette Park, a federal park in the District of Columbia, and require the Secretary of the Interior to donate the statue to a museum or similar entity. This bill is part of a series of statue and memorial removal bills I am introducing during Black History Month.

The land that comprises Lafayette Park has been used as a racetrack, a showplace for caged animals, a graveyard, a market where enslaved people were sold, an encampment for soldiers and for political protests and celebrations. Jackson was an enslaver and signed a law that forced Native Americans to move west of the Mississippi River. During this forced expulsion by the federal government, roughly 4,000 Cherokee died in what is now known as the Trail of Tears.

The statue, the first in Lafayette Park, was dedicated on January 8, 1853, on the 38th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans, which the statue depicts. This prominent location in the Nation's capital, right outside of the White House, should never have honored a man who was an unabashed racist, owned enslaved people and authorized the genocide of Native Americans. Jackson's entire tenure is a shameful part of our history and should not be honored with a statue in Lafayette Park.

This bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior to ensure the removal of the statue from Lafayette Park and to donate the statue and marble base to a museum or similar entity so that the statue can be accompanied by the appropriate historical context. The next generation can learn from this painful chapter in our history without celebrating it.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL SHIP FINANCING IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I re-introduced my "Federal Ship Financing Improvement Act," expanding the Maritime Administration's (MARAD) federal ship financing program—commonly referred to as "Title XI" of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936—to include re-flagging, repair, or conversions of U.S.-flagged civilian vessels for commercial and military purposes.

Currently, MARAD's Title XI program only provides federal loans and loan guarantees for the construction of new civilian vessels in U.S.-based commercial shipyards or facility and equipment upgrades at those shipyards. My bill would allow MARAD to also provide loan guarantees for corrective or preventative maintenance or re-flagging work at U.S.-based shipyards, including to convert a commercial vessel to a more useful military configuration to carry out federal contracts. The bill would also require that all shipyard improvement projects with loans or loan guarantees from MARAD use construction materials produced or manufactured in the United States. In the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92), U.S. Senator TAMMY BALDWIN (D-WI) and I implemented these "Buy America" requirements for MARAD's small shipyard grant program.

As chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and the former ranking member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, I have long supported our domestic shipbuilding and U.S.-flagged international fleet. The bill I reintroduced today builds upon my work in the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283), in which I helped to secure Congressional authorization for the new tanker security fleet and strengthened the military's US-flagged preference for seaborne cargo

contracts. In the 117th Congress, my "Federal Ship Financing Improvement Act" was partially incorporated as Section 307 of the Chairman's mark of the House's "Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022" (H.R. 6865) but removed from the final law.

Mr. Speaker, American shipyards are ready, willing, and able to take on this additional work. Expanding MARAD's Title XI loan guarantee program to support that work means more well-paying jobs for American workers and better maintained vessels flagged in the United States, useful for military and commercial purposes. I urge all members of the House to cosponsor the "Federal Ship Financing Improvement Act."

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MANUEL PIHAKIS

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and accomplishments of Manuel Pihakis of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Pihakis was a man devoted to his faith and community, where he served as a teacher, athletic director, wrestling coach, mayor, and school board member for many years. In and around Canonsburg, he was renowned for his caring nature and generosity.

Born the son of Michael and Sophie Pantely Pihakis in 1933, Manuel graduated from Canonsburg High School in 1952. He starred as a three-time PIAA wrestling champion, finishing high school with an impressive record of 99-1. Upon graduation, he attended Indiana University, earning a degree in 1956. His wrestling success led him to participate in the final Olympic tryouts in 1952 and 1956. Manuel's prowess as a competitor and a coach has cemented his place in the Pittsburgh Sports Hall of Fame, Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame, Washington-Greene Chapter of Pennsylvania's Hall of Fame, and the Canon-McMillan Hall of Honor.

The years Manuel devoted to his fellow Pennsylvanians have immortalized him among the Canonsburg community. He served on many committees, including the School Board, the Zoning Board, and the Frank Sarris Public Library, among others. Ultimately, he was elected to serve his community as Mayor of Canonsburg. Many looked up to him as an academic, athletic, and spiritual mentor.

In 2013, Manuel retired from coaching to spend more time with his wife, Evelyn Mahramas Pihakis, and his sons, Michael and George. He was strongly devoted to his faith as an active member of the All-Saints Greek Orthodox Church in Canonsburg and was awarded the highest honor a layman of the church may receive—the Archon of the Order of St. Andrew.

Mr. Speaker, Manuel Pihakis is a hometown hero to Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, whose legacy of service to family, faith, and community should inspire all Americans. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I extend my condolences to Mr. Pihakis's family and wish them healing during this difficult time.